

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A probe for detecting magnetic resonance signals emitted from a
2 region of interest in an object comprising:
3 (a) at least first and second electrodes positionable on or within the object
4 in proximity to the region of interest, and
5 (b) feed wires coupling the electrodes to a signal detector,
6 wherein the electrodes and feed wires cooperatively function with matter
7 within the region of interest to form a signal detecting coil.

1 2. The probe as defined by claim 1 wherein the first and second
2 electrodes are spaced apart with matter within the region of interest therebetween.

1 3. The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the matter comprises tissue.

1 4. The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the matter comprises fluid.

1 5. The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the number of electrodes
2 exceeds two.

1 6. The probe as defined by claim 5 wherein the electrodes are carried by a
2 catheter.

1 7. The probe as defined by claim 6 wherein electrodes are rings around
2 the circumference of the catheter.

1 8. The probe as defined by claim 6 wherein the electrodes are extendable
2 from and retractable within the catheter.

1 9. The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the electrodes are carried by a
2 catheter.

1 10. The probe as defined by claim 9 wherein the electrodes are rings
2 around the circumference of the catheter.

1 11. The probe as defined by claim 9 wherein the electrodes are extendable
2 from and retractable within the catheter.

1 12. The probe as defined by claim 2 wherein the electrodes comprise
2 needles.

1 13. A method of imaging a region of interest in an object comprising the
2 steps of:

3 (a) placing the object in a static magnetic field,
4 (b) applying RF excitation pulses to the region of interest, and
5 (c) detecting magnetic resonance signals from the region of interest with
6 an array of at least two spaced electrodes in proximity to the region of interest.

1 14. The method as defined by claim 13 wherein the electrodes and feed
2 wires to the electrodes cooperatively function with tissue in the region of interest to form an
3 RF signal detecting coil.

1 15. The method as defined by claim 13 wherein the electrodes comprise
2 needles.

1 16. The method as defined by claim 13 wherein the electrodes are carried
2 by a catheter.

1 17. The method as defined by claim 16 wherein the electrodes comprise
2 rings around the circumference of the catheter.

1 18. The method as defined by claim 16 wherein the electrodes are
2 extendable from and retractable within the catheter.